

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESS INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL

ARNOLD KALININ

REFS: A) LISBON 3643; B) LISBON 3232

SUMMARY: SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL ARNOLD KALININ WAS INTERVIEWED SEP 16 BY REPORTER FROM LOCAL EVENING DAILY CONCERNING RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND SOVIET UNION, AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR BOTH COUNTRIES WITH EMPHASIS ON POSSIBLE ECONOMIC AID. END SUMMARY.

1. DIARIO POPULAR PUBLISHED A FULL-PAGE INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR ARNOLD KALININ HEADLINED "THE USSR WILL ACTIVELY IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE WORKING PEOPLE" EVENING OF SEP 16. FOLLOWING ARE SALIENT PORTIONS OF AMBASSADOR KALININ'S REMARKS:

"THE EVENTS OF APRIL 25, 1974 OPENED THE WAY FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN SUCH SECTORS AS ECONOMICS, CULTURE, TECHNICO-SCIENTIFIC, SPORTS, MEDICINE, ETC.

"THE ECONOMIC POWER OF THE SOVIET UNION IS WELL KNOWN,
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AS IS ITS GROWING INTERNAL MARKET FOR GOODS FROM OTHER

COUNTRIES AND ITS HIGH TECHNICO-SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LEVEL.

"BECAUSE OF THIS, THE PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOVIET EXPERIENCE AND COLLABORATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION CAN BE BENEFICIAL FOR THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. AND WITHOUT DOUBT, THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE OF MUCH BENEFIT TO THE SOVIET UNION..."

"NEGOTIATIONS FOR A LONG TERM COMMERCIAL ACCORD BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE NOW GOING ON..."

"THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IS NOW EXAMINING CONCRETE SOVIET PROPOSALS CONCERNING DIRECT AIR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. (REF A) BUSINESS COLLABORATION BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF MARITIME AGENCIES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND PORTUGUESE FIRMS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. (REF B) I THINK THAT DIRECT TRAFFIC TIES BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND THE USSR WILL HELP OUR TWO PEOPLES KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER..."

"EVERY MINUTE PROPOSALS ARE ARRIVING CONCERNING THE EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS OF JOURNALISTS, OF TV REPRESENTATIVES, OF RADIO, OF VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS, AND THE EMBASSY WILL PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE ORGANIZATION OF SUCH VISITS.

"THE PORTUGAL-USSR ASSOCIATION HAS ALREADY BEGUN ACTIVITIES. THE CREATION OF THE COUNTERPART OF THIS SOCIETY IN THE SOVIET UNION IS NOW BEGINNING..."

2. WHEN ASKED IF SOME ECONOMIC AID FOR PORTUGAL FROM THE SOVIET UNION WAS IN THE WORKS, THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED: "THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS (BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND USSR) WILL SERVE, IN THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE, TO REALIZE PLANS DIRECTED TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY, ON THE BASIS OF THE PROCESSES THAT BEGAN HERE ON APRIL 25..."

3. COMMENT: THE SOVIETS AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY CONTINUE TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR PUTTING FORTH THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE AS VIABLE COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PARTNERS FOR PORTUGAL. THIS OPTION IS A SEDUCTIVE ONE, NOT ONLY FOR THE LEFT, BUT FOR OTHERS WHO WISH TO HAVE A COMPETITIVE ALTERNATIVE TO THE WEST
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AND TO THOSE WHO ARE LURED BY THE APPARENT MARKET AND AID POSSIBILITIES OF THE COMMUNIST NATIONS. (SEE SEPTTEL CONCERNING VISIT OF PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC DELEGATION TO THREE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.)
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